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THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE, OR, THE AMERICAN ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1781.

RICHMOND, *December* 22, 1781.

TO THE PUBLIC.

AFTER so long a silence of the PRESS, occasioned by the operations of the War during the late campaign in this state, it is with infinite pleasure the Printer congratulates the Public on that happy situation in which our recent successes against the common enemy hath placed us; amidst the advantages of which to our Country, it is not among the least, that the Press can now again resume its proper functions, and afford to the People those early and timely communications of *foreign and domestic Intelligence* which may come to hand, and of which, through the want of such a channel of information, they have been kept so long ignorant. The importance of these communications to the People, and the baneful effects which have arisen and may arise from the want of them, need no comment, having been sufficiently felt. It is with peculiar satisfaction the Printer observes, that "*the Freedom of the Press*" has been regarded by the Legislature in the true spirit of Liberty, and stands secured to the People by the Bill of Rights, as one of their most unalienable Privileges; and, therefore, doubts not but that his own private endeavors to serve the Public in this particular will meet the fullest patronage of every Friend to his Country.

The Printer proposes to publish the VIRGINIA GAZETTE every Saturday Morning, in its present form and size, to contain the earliest Intelligence, both foreign and domestic. It is his intention to render his Paper as extensively useful as possible, and to conduct it on the strictest principles of Freedom and Impartiality; a plan which he conceives the most acceptable and agreeable to his Readers.

The favors of the Ingenious will be thankfully received, and all Essays or Pieces wrote with decency, for the rectification of Abuses, the promotion of Virtue, or of the Arts, Sciences, Manufactures, &c. will be carefully inserted. On these conditions he hopes to merit the patronage, confidence and encouragement of the Public, to gain which shall be his utmost attention and care.

The Price to Subscribers will be THIRTY SHILLINGS per Annum. Advertisments to be inserted according to their lengths.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are received by *William Smith*, Esq; Post-master, at Fredericksburg; *James Young*, Esq; Post-master, at Petersburg; *Robert M'Crea*, Esq; Post-master, at Alexandria; at *Mr. Gault's* and *Mr. Formicola's* taverns, and by the Printer, at his Office near the Treasury, in Richmond.

Such Gentlemen at a distance who will be so obliging as to take in Subscriptions, will please to notify the same to their (and the Public's)

Most obedient humble Servant,

JAMES HAYES.

Notwithstanding the unalterable right of our fleet the reduction of the British fleet at York and Gloucester, the following particulars received in that interesting and important event, not arriving before our publication in this week, it is presumed will prove acceptable to our readers.

Head Quarters, Camp before York, Gloucester 1, 1781.

SIR.

LAST evening I was honored with your excellency's favour of the 21st ult. with its inclosure. The intelligence it contains respecting the British fleet is very agreeable, and will be immediately transmitted to the count de Grasse.

In my last, which bore date the 23d ult. I informed that our preparations for a near investment of the enemy at York were fast ripening to a point. I have now to acquaint your excellency that I marched from Williamsburgh, with the whole army, on the 28th, and approached within about two miles of the enemy at York. At which distance a form was made of force opposition on our left, but upon the count Rochambeau, who commands that part of the army, his moving a few pieces of field artillery under the direction of the baron de Viomenil, and giving a few shots, the enemy retired. On the 29th the American troops moved forward, and took their ground in front of the enemy's works, on their left, no opposition except a few scattered shots from a small work, by Moore's mill, on Wormley creek and a battery on the left of Pigeon-quarter. A small force also from our rifle-men and the enemy's jagers. And, on the morning we discovered that the enemy had evacuated all their exterior line of works and withdrawn to those near the body of the town. By this means we are in possession of very advantageous grounds which command in a very near advance, almost the whole remaining line of their defence. All the expectation that our circumstances will admit is using to bring up our heavy artillery and stores, and to open our batteries. This work, I hope, will be executed in a few days, when our fire will begin with great vigor.

The investment of the enemy is now fully completed and draws very near their lines, except on the river above the town, where their communication is still open. To prevent this, and to compleat the new blockade, a regard is gone to the count de Grasse, desiring him to push, if he thinks it practicable, one or more ships above the town. This, if effected, will answer many very valuable purposes.

The position of the count de Grasse is sufficiently taken, the main fleet keeping their station in Lynn-Haven Bay, and detachments made to secure the rivers. The determination of the count is fortunately disposed to comply with our wishes in every necessary co-operation.

I shall continue to keep Congress advised of such occurrences as are worthy the communication.

With the highest regard and esteem, I have the honor to be, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

His Excellency
The President of Congress.

Head Quarters before York, 20th October, 1781.

SIR.

MY last dispatch to your excellency was of the 9th. I then informed you that we should open trenches on that night; worded so, and established our first parallel within 600 yards of the enemy's works with the loss of only one officer of the French artillery wounded and fifteen privates killed and wounded, the greatest part of which were of the French line.

The 7th and 8th we were employed in constructing the first parallel, and in erecting batteries (the whole of which opened on the 9th.

The 9th at three o'Clock in the afternoon the French batteries on the left, of four 12 pounders, six mortars and howitzers, opened, and at 5 o'clock the American battery on the right, of six 18 and 24 pounders, two mortars and two howitzers, opened also. We were informed that our shells did considerable execution in the town, and we could perceive that our shot, which were directed against the enemy's embrasures, injured them much.

The 10th two French batteries, one of ten 22 and 24 pounders, and six mortars and howitzers, the other of four 18 pounders, opened; as did on the same afternoon batteries, one of four 18 pounders, the other of two 22 stars. The fire now became so excessively heavy that the enemy withdrew their cannon from their embrasures, placed them behind the merlons and scarcely fired a shot during the whole day. In the evening the Charon frigate, of 44 guns, was set on fire by a hot ball from the French battery on the left, and entirely consumed. Her guns and stores had been taken out. By the report of a deserter, one shell, which were thrown with the utmost degree of precision, and most skilfully in the course of the day.

Yesterday morning several of the [illegible] fired by hot shot and burnt. This [illegible] were their shipping as far over to the Gloucester [illegible] possible.

We last night advanced our second parallel within [illegible] yards of the enemy's works with little or no [illegible] from them. Only one man was killed and [illegible] four wounded. I shall think it strange indeed if the Cornwallis makes no vigorous exertions in the course of this night or very soon after.

I cannot but acknowledge the infinite obligations I am under to his excellency the count de Rochambeau, the marquis de Saint Simon, commanding the troops from the West-Indies, the other general officers, and indeed the officers of every denomination in the french army for the assistance which they afford me. The exemplary of many of those gentlemen in the batteries before us is of the greatest advantage in the present operations.

And I am truthfully it must give your excellency and Congress the highest pleasure to know that the greatest harmony prevails between the two armies. They are actuated by one spirit. That of supporting the honor of the allied arms, and pushing their approaches with the utmost vigour.

I have the honor to be, with perfect respect and esteem, your excellency's most obedient and very humble servant.

G. WASHINGTON.

His Excellency
The President of Congress.

Head Quarters before York, 18th October, 1781.

SIR,

I HAD the honor to inform your excellency in my letter of the 15th instant, that we had then [illegible] our second parallel, the [illegible] were employed in completing it. Having deemed the two redoubts on the enemy's right sufficiently injured by our fire to make them practicable, it was determined to storm them by assault on the evening of the 14th. The following disposition was accordingly made. A detachment of the enemy's extreme left to be attacked by the American light infantry under the command of the marquis de la Fayette; the other redoubt, by the French grenadiers and infantry, under the command of the baron de Viomenil. I have reason to inform your excellency that we succeeded in both. Nothing could exceed the [illegible] ardour of the troops. They advanced under the fire of the enemy without returning a shot, and entered the works with the bayonet only. The reports of his excellency the count de Rochambeau, the marquis de la Fayette, and lieutenant-colonel Hamilton, copies of which I enclose, come more particularly into a description of the mode in which the attacks on the part of the French and American columns were conducted. We made prisoners, in both redoubts, one major, two captains, three subalterns and sixty-seven privates.

The works which we have carried are of great importance to us. From them we shall enfilade the enemy's whole line; and I am in hopes we shall be able to